

STATE OF COLORADO

GOVERNOR'S JOBS CABINET

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June 26, 2008

The rise of globalization in the 21st century has created an entirely new marketplace for talented individuals – one where Colorado not only competes with Massachusetts and California, but with India and Japan as well. In order for Colorado to compete nationally and internationally, we need to create a sustainable workforce for this state – and to do that, we must align the goals of our business community with the goals of our education and workforce communities.

One of the strengths of this state is our diversity – we cannot find a one-sized fits all solution that will benefit the people of this state. Each region in this state has its own needs and interests, strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities. To address this issue, the Jobs Cabinet has been split into five subcommittees by economic region: the Eastern Plains, Western Slope, Mountain Resorts, San Luis Valley and the Front Range. As part of the first phase of its work, the Jobs Cabinet has been holding community outreach meetings in these regions over the past two months.

Each community outreach meeting includes representatives from higher education, K-12, workforce, local business and economic development. During these meeting, the group is asked to identify their long-term goals for the Jobs Cabinet, as well as potential issues, demographics and industries in their regions. The matrix below summarizes the group's discussion and goals for this particular session.

Thank you for taking the time to visit our website.

Sincerely,

The Jobs Cabinet Co-Chairs

Jim Lyons

Teresa Taylor

Ruth Ann Woo

EASTERN PLAINS REGIONAL OUTREACH MEETING GOALS

Sterling, Thursday, June 26, 2008

Regional Business Needs	Regional Training Programs	Education and Mentoring	Career Pathways and Skills	Funding and Assessment
Facilitate participation in government programs for small businesses and reduce the burden of participation	Create training opportunities customized for regional employer/employee needs	Increase knowledge, awareness, and availability of career opportunities and planning through mentorship, education and career counseling.	Develop a career pathways curricula in grade school through high school.	Assess the regional workforce in order to ascertain the need for additional grants and other forms of funding to assist in public and private rural enterprises
Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success	Five Year Indicators of Success
Keep attentive to the needs of small businesses	Higher retention of CO students in CO Jobs	Re-educate and re-train older workforce	Increase base level skills of workers in jobs market. (Work ethic, customer service skills, leadership development and STEM)	Support additional funding for new training programs, equipment and salaries.
A more entrepreneurial workforce	Help for communities to develop 'grow your own' programs	Career Counseling by high school counselors with tool kits for early career path interests	Easily accessible way to assess current skills and natural inclination for other skills	Improve funding for higher education, which will attract career opportunities and great a great ROI for the state and region
Incentives for businesses to hire specific populations (e.g. parolees)	Training programs should be available within this region	Increase the availability of undergraduate degree programs in the local rural regions	Credit counseling programs for youth	Increased collaboration in rural communities including grant programs that promote public/private partnerships
		Increase mentoring programs and business mentors to help navigate career planning	Standardize Job titles and descriptions	Assessment of the workforce in this region.

ISSUES, DEMOGRAPHICS, INDUSTRIES, AND STRENGTHS

Sterling, Thursday, June 26, 2008

Targeted Demographics or Populations	Regional Strengths	Regional Economic Drivers over the next 10 years	Issues	What partnerships could or should exist in your region?
Small business entrepreneurs	Abundant energy resources	Agriculture (including ethanol)	Lack of funding	Business partners with K-12 for mentoring and career planning.
Families with day care needs	Transportation and access	Alternative Energy	Lack of communication	Development of a shared workforce pool between businesses (share training costs amongst industries)
Youth	Good healthcare	Healthcare	Time	Bus/WF/ED/ECO DEVO should form a consortium to attract businesses, develop training, apply for grants and provide mentors/internships
Aging Population	Quality of Life	Transportation (Railroads)	Flexibility/willingness to change	Expansion of current partnerships like Progressive 15, Rural Solutions, and Council for Youth Services
Single Parents	Community College	Education	Lack of skilled workforce, specifically trade/technical skills	Defuse 'turfism' by ensuring all communities and departments are communicating with one another
Parolees	Customer Service Orientation	Prisons (and prisoners)	Water shortages	
Non-English Speaking	Work Ethic	Call Centers	Cost of transportation	
Bilingual				